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LETTER DATED 13 OCTOBER 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I am pleased to transmit herewith a letter dated 13 October 1991 from Mr. Ahmad Hussein, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the protest of the Iraqi Government at Turkey's violation of Iraq's territorial integrity.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdul Amir A. AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 13 October 1991 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the statement made by the Prime Minister of Turkey, Mr. Mesut Yilmaz, in Ankara on 11 October 1991 that, on Friday, 11 October 1991, the Turkish Air Force had carried out an aerial operation in northern Iraq in which eight Turkish warplanes crossed the Iraqi border to the south of Çukurca in the Hakkâri area. They penetrated to a distance of 7 kilometres inside Iraqi territory, bombed the Iraqi villages of Banik, Shilan, Siyar, Sirya and Bighufa in that area and used napalm bombs against civilians in those villages. Initial press reports mentioned the wounding of at least five persons as a result of this savage bombardment.

This flagrant violation of the territory of the Republic of Iraq and its sovereignty and territorial integrity constitutes a clear breach of the United Nations Charter, the norms of international law and the Iraq-Turkey border treaty of 1926. The continuation of these violations will be extremely damaging to relations of good-neighbourliness and cooperation between the Iraqi and the Turkish peoples.

In registering the protest of the Republic of Iraq at this behaviour, I wish to inform you that the Iraqi Government reserves Iraq's full right to take such action as it deems appropriate under international law and the United Nations Charter with regard to the violations committed against its territory and its national territorial integrity.

In informing you of this blatant violation of the sovereignty and integrity of Iraqi territory, we request you to intervene and to take immediate measures to put an end to these violations, which are, first and foremost, damaging to the credibility of the United Nations and its role in protecting the independence and territorial sovereignty of Member States.

I request you to have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmad HUSSEIN
Minister for Foreign Affairs